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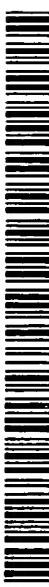
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(54) Title: QUATERNARY AMMONIUM SALTS AS THICKENING AGENTS FOR AQUEOUS SYSTEMS

(57) Abstract: This invention relates to the use of alkyl amido quaternary ammonium salts, and formulations thereof, as thickening agents in aqueous based fluids, especially those used in oil field applications. The quaternary ammonium salts of the present invention exhibit improved gelling characteristics.